

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [4865] 40-9er: Substituting an LM386 for an LM380N-8
Message-ID: <199602281805.KAA11994@interval.interval.com>

The 40-9er uses an LM380N-8 to minimize parts count, but if you can't find one, you can easily modify the PC board to use an LM386 instead.

1. Cut all of the traces running to pins 5, 6, and 7. You can use an exact-o knife for this.
2. Reconnect the trace(s) that went to pin 7 to pin 6. Use a very short piece of bare copper wire.
3. Similarly, reconnect the trace(s) that went to pin 6 to pin 5.
4. Obtain a 100 to 180 ohm resistor and a 2 to 10uF capacitor.
5. Connect the (-) lead of the capacitor to one lead of the resistor (keep this and other leads short). Connect the (+) lead of the capacitor to the pin 1 pad of the IC. Connect the free end of the resistor to pin 8.

That's it. The reason step 5 is necessary is that the 386 has only 26dB gain with no external components, while the 380 has 34dB gain (fixed). By adding the R and C in series between pins 1 and 8, you'll make up the difference. In fact, you can make the R smaller or larger to change the gain as needed. Making R a short will result in a gain of 46dB, which may be too much for the 40-9er board and cause instability.

Also keep in mind that you can convert the single-ended connection from the '602 to the '386 into a balanced configuration to improve gain and stability, and possibly improve the muting characteristics. If you want to do this, look at the NorCal 40 schematic. The main difference is that the NorCal 40 doesn't use the 82mH inductor. You should use two of the inductors, one in each leg, to retain the low-pass filtering feature of the 40-9er.

Have fun--

Wayne
N6KR

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [4866] 40-9er: Substituting an LM386 for an LM380N-8
Message-ID: <199602281804.KAA11849@interval.interval.com>

The 40-9er uses an LM380N-8 to minimize parts count, but if you can't find one, you can easily modify the PC board to use an LM386 instead.

1. Cut all of the traces running to pins 5, 6, and 7. You can use an exact-o knife for this.
2. Reconnect the trace(s) that went to pin 7 to pin 6. Use a very short piece of bare copper wire.
3. Similarly, reconnect the trace(s) that went to pin 6 to pin 5.
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Also keep in mind that you can convert the single-ended connection from the '602 to the '386 into a balanced configuration to improve gain and stability, and possibly improve the muting characteristics. If you want to do this, look at the NorCal 40 schematic. The main difference is that the NorCal 40 doesn't use the 82mH inductor. You should use two of the inductors, one in each leg, to retain the low-pass filtering feature of the 40-9er.

Have fun--

Wayne
N6KR

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [4868] 40-9er: Substituting an LM386 for the LM380N-8
Message-ID: <199602281812.KAA12808@interval.interval.com>

The 40-9er uses an LM380N-8 to minimize parts count, but if you can't find one, you can easily modify the PC board to use an LM386 instead.

1. Cut all of the traces running to pins 5, 6, and 7. You can use an exact-o knife for this.
2. Reconnect the trace that went to pin 7 to pin 6. Use a very short piece of bare copper wire.
3. Similarly, reconnect the trace that went to pin 6 to pin 5.
4. Obtain a 100 to 180 ohm resistor and a 2 to 10uF capacitor.
5. Connect the (-) lead of the capacitor to one lead of the resistor (keep this and other leads short). Connect the (+) lead of the capacitor to the pin 1 pad of the IC. Connect the free end of the resistor to pin 8.

That's it. The reason step 5 is necessary is that the 386 has only 26dB gain with no external components, while the 380 has 34dB gain (fixed). By adding the R and C in series between pins 1 and 8, you'll make up the difference. In fact, you can make the R smaller or larger to change the gain as needed. Making R a short will result in a gain of 46dB, which may be too much for the 40-9er board and cause instability.

Also keep in mind that you can convert the single-ended connection from the '602 to the '386 into a balanced configuration to improve gain and stability, and possibly improve the muting characteristics. If you want to do this, look at the NorCal 40 schematic. The main difference is that the NorCal 40 doesn't use the 82mH inductor. You should use two of the inductors, one in each leg, to retain the low-pass filtering feature of the 40-9er.

Have fun--

Wayne
N6KR

P.S. If you can't find the 82mH inductor, you can substitute an 88mH telco

toroid. This will actually work much better due to it's high Q. Of course, these toroids are nearly as big as the entire receiver. :)

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>
Subject: [4860] 49er RE: FS 2N5484
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960228085202.26489B-100000@crl9.crl.com>

All requests for a 2N5484 received as of noon today have been filled. Looking forward to working a bunch of 49er on 40 meters before long. I still have a few left if anyone still needs one to complete their project. Same deal \$1 each plus a SASE

de stan ak0b
e-mail via randyw@crl.com

Stan Wilson, AK0B
PO Box 1174
St. Charles, MO. 63302

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Larry East <LVE1@inel.gov>
Subject: [4859] 73 Becoming a QRP mag??
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19960228160212.1bc799de@garnet.inel.gov>

>It looks like the latest issue of 73 holds some interest for QRPers:
>There's a nice little roundup of QRP kits, a KC1 review by AC4HF, A
>review of the new QRP+ by none other than WA3ULH, plus more. A pretty
>good issue.
>

Gee, folks; if Uncle Wayne thinks QRP is a good thing, maybe we are doing something wrong!! :-) :-)

Sorry all you [3 or 4] Wayne Greene fans out there, just kidding! (NOT)

72, Larry.

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: frank@net.com (Frank Gurnee)
Subject: [4899] again Cascade crystals on 40m
Message-ID: <9602290239.AA07936@trappist.net.com>

I know some folks review the web archive and miss some postings, so before I close out my work on the crystals, is there anyone else interested?

I have sets of matched 12.288 Mhz crystals for the 40m/17m conversion of the Cascade. Let me know if you are interested.

Regards,
Frank
K06MM

frank@net.com

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: DAVEAF5U@aol.com
Subject: [4843] Arizona scQRPions Meet
Message-ID: <960228020040_155376771@emout04.mail.aol.com>

The scQRPions will meet on the 1st Saturday in March (March 2, 1996) in northwest Phoenix. The exact location is at the Luby's on the southwest side of Bell Rd and 51st Avenue. Bring any QRP home brew equipment plus schematics. Our meeting will focus on our effort in the upcoming QRP-TO-THE-FIELD event April 27th.

Warning: ScQRPions are night time feeders. If stung by this bug, no alcohol or sedatives should be consumed! No specific treatment is needed for numbness and tingling. The numbness and tingling will decrease but can persist for several weeks.

Signs & Symptoms: Visual disturbances and/or uncoordinated eye movements, difficulty swallowing and "swollen tongue" sensation with excessive drooling, slurred speech, muscle twitching, and PAIN.

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Krelic@gnn.com (Curt Krelic)
Subject: [4862] CENTURY/22
Message-ID: <199602281729.MAA03854@mail-e2a-service.gnn.com>

The TenTec Century/22 has been sold, thanks for replies.

Curt ka3ivb qrp-1#433,used for good

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: angell@northernnet.com (V.C. Angell)
Subject: [4880] CW keying from a Mac?
Message-ID: <199602282148.PAA20419@server.northernnet.com>

I have been reading the comments about "sloppy keying." I too can develop a tremor suddenly and be unable to continue a QSO. I had stored a short message in my MFJ keyer explaining my problem and sending my 72/73. I could always push the button to send the message. Every time it happened, I got great replies from whomever I was talking to.

Last night my keyer died. It has had a series of problems ever since I bought it, so I don't know if I want to fix it again. I have a Macintosh computer. Does anyone know of a program (I assume I will have to build an interface, so any tips there would be appreciated too.) to send CW that might also be able to store a short message for me?

73,

"VC" KCOEM

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: -MaiSer-@telxon.mis.telxon.com (-MaiSer-)
Subject: [4846] Delivery status: Message Not Delivered
Message-ID: <9602281149.AA04014@telxon.mis.telxon.com>

A delivery problem was encountered with your message:
Error 255: Unknown error

Recipient address(es) in error:
dholl.tlxusak1@TELXON.COM

----- Original text of message follows:
Non-Delivery Error Code: 201

Message was not delivered to:
dholl@tlxusak1 {telxon/corporate/dholl}

Original Message Follows:

I may have missed it, but so far, I have not seen mention of the upper frequency limit for the effectiveness of Litz wire--somewhere below 1 MHz, if my memory serves. Whatever the actual cut-off--the point where Litz provides no advantage over regular stranded or solid wire--it is clearly useful for LF and VLF work, marginal for MF, and not especially useful for HF and up. Someone with more precise data might fill this in to ensure reasonable accuracy--not guaranteed in this hurried note.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

*** ASCII enclosure follows. Original filename: ERROR.MSG

VERSION:3.00

TO:CSI:telxon/corporate/dholl

FROM:MHS:LBCebik@SMTP (L. B. Cebik) <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>

DATE:1996-02-28

TIME:06:43

SUBJECT:Re: Litz Wire

PRIORITY:

EXT:G:109:P2TO:ADDR

I:4:TYPE

22

A:5:TYPE

MHS

A:15:NAME

dholl@davinci

G:36:FNAME:ALIAS

A:17:FRIENDLYNAME

'dholl@davinci'

EXT:G:137:P1FROM:ADDR

I:4:TYPE

22

A:5:TYPE

MHS

A:47:NAME

LBCebik@SMTP (L. B. Cebik) <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>

G:32:FNAME:ALIAS

A:13:FRIENDLYNAME

L. B. Cebik

EXT:I:3:HEADLEN

8

XTEXT:INPUT.TXT

```
*****
*Ranson J. Pelt                                     *
*Internal Audit Manager                             *
*Virginia Tech 0328                                *
\  \  _ _ _ _ _ /
```



```
*Blacksburg, VA 24061          \ / / / *  
*(540) 231-9475    FAX (540) 231-4681   \_/_/_/*  
*                                     *  
*QST de nz4i      Semper Fi           *  
*****
```

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Mel Evans <101366.3072@compuserve.com>
Subject: [4874] Heath Demise
Message-ID: <960228193718_101366.3072_JHP99-1@CompuServe.COM>

Hi again,

Update on debate, now running at 34 to 1 in favour of better manuals!

Kit suppliers please.....moral?

72 and 73 de Mel
GM6JAG
Edinburgh, Scotland

"BABTAB-----Build A Bit, Test A Bit"

Sponsored by SPAM, Society for Prevention of Acronymic Mismanagement.

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Buck Switzer <n8cqa@sun.tir.com>
Subject: [4900] Heath Memories
Message-ID: <9602290239.AA17366@sun>

Bill - Thanks for expressing the joy that many of us feel, associated with the Heathkit name. de: ex WN8SQQ, 8/54.

72/73 Buck, QRP-L #41

Buck Switzer, N8CQA, 654 Georgia, Marysville, MI 48040-1243
Home:(810)364-9640 - Fax:(810)364-8179
n8cqa@tir.com - am441@detroit.freenet.org

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: launerb@crl.com (William H. Launer)
Subject: [4898] Heathkit Memories
Message-ID: <v01520d11ad5ab562f742@[192.0.2.1]>

Hi, Gang

I have a 1951 edition of "The Radio Amateurs Handbook". The Heath Company had 7 pages of ads in the Advertisers section. There was an order blank, which has been clipped out. I know who did it, because it was me! I ordered the "Model AR-1 3-band receiver kit, which covers 550 Kc. to to over

20 Mc. continuous. Extremely high sensitivity. Shipping Wt., 10 lbs." for \$23.50. I also ordered the Metal professional type communications receiver for \$4.95, and the speaker for an additional \$2.75. I was a junior in high school. I never got my ham license until 1970, but building this kit was instrumental in helping me (a farm boy in Illinois) to decide to go to college and become an electrical engineer. I've built several other kits (Knightkits, and a Heath SB-401), and enjoyed building them all. I still have the AR-1, and it still works!

I have a soft spot for the old Heath Company, but times, people, and companies change. I haven't built any of the new crop of kits, but I hope that they will inspire others as the Heathkit inspired me. The newcomers now have lists like qrp-1 to assist them if they have trouble. The manual had to suffice in the early days of kitbuilding.

Thanks for letting me ramble a bit. For those of you on the list with questions/problems remember that "there are no such things as stupid questions; only stupid answers"!

72, Bill wb0cld

Bill Launer
launerb@crl.com
wb0cld@wb0cld.ampr.org [44.46.66.25]
qrp-1 #279 qrp-1 #3551

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "Mark S. Adams" <MSADAMS@ACSU.BUFFALO.EDU>
Subject: [4876] HW-9 Fixed, es Vertical Antennas
Message-ID: <3134E08E.EA8@ACSU.BUFFALO.EDU>

X-Mozilla-Status: 0001

Message-ID: <3134DAF3.18DF@ACSU.BUFFALO.EDU>

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: Brent Alexenko <alexenko@prairie.NoDak.edu>

Subject: [4879] In a shoebox....

Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.960228152746.1291A-1000000@prairie.NoDak.edu>

Well, after much consideration I'm ready to take the QRP plunge. The only problem I anticipate is....what I'm going to use for an antenna.

I currently live in a 3rd floor pseduo-efficiency with NO balcony and no roof access. There aren't even any rain gutters to tune up. Since money is an object, toys like an IsoLoop is out of the question.

The only thing I've come up with is a Hamstick somewhere inside. I don't care what it looks like, but I don't have room to put up a dipole and I haven't heard a lot of good things about random wires. Since I'm only going to run on 40 m, a monobander would be fine.

Gently, I tap the pool of knowledge.....

Thanks,

Brent Alexenko
KG0WE

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: "W. Daniel, 9V1ZV" <daniel@pandora.lugs.org.sg>

Subject: [4894] JDR's e-mail address?

Message-ID: <3134f961.pandora@pandora.lugs.org.sg>

Hi,

Does anyone know if JDR Electronics has an e-mail address? Or is anyone here from JDR or able to contact them? Reason is I placed an order for a part from the JDR web page (its really cool if it works) but have not received any confirmation so I need to know if the order was accepted or I should go look elsewhere for the part. Thanks.

73 de 9V1ZV Daniel

--

Daniel Wee | daniel@pandora.lugs.org.sg
9V1ZV | daniel.wee@f516.n600.z6.fidonet.org

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: faunt@netcom.com (Doug Faunt N6TQS +1-510-655-8604)
Subject: [4838] keyer in Whiterook paddle base? and Heathkits
Message-ID: <199602280526.VAA12929@netcom10.netcom.com>

I seem to recall someone stuffing a small keyer in the base of a Whiterook paddle, but have lost the details. Could someone send me that info, if you've still got it?

Also, one of the hot things to do when you built a Heathkit was to build it from just the schematic. I did it with a couple of small kits, but I knew someone who built a nice AM/CW transmitter and the matching SSB adapter that way (can't remember the model numbers). It's been a while. I liked to throw away the Heathkit cases, and fabricate my own.
73, doug

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: thom.lacosta@fido261.qis.net (Thom LaCosta)
Subject: [4885] Latest Addition to HAMLIB
Message-ID: <2bd_9602281808@fido261.qis.net>

* Copied (from: ham_tech) by Thom LaCosta using timEd 1.10+.

Page No. 1

Date: 02/28/96
Time: 3:33 PM

HamLib
Additions
to DataBase

Model	Description	Code Location
SB-610	HEATH-Monitor Scope,man	C/G Thom LaCosta

The Listing above was produced by HAMLIB

A. How to access HAMLIB

Enter a netmail message to HAMLIB at 1:261/1352 (Note: make sure YOUR origin address is a current FIDO node number, or a valid Internet address!!).

If you're calling from the internet, address the message to:
HAMLIB@fido261.qis.net.

The subject can be anything of your choice.

For Help with HAMLIB, enter the following as the message text

FIND: .HELP > The system will send you the help file

Thom LaCosta

N3WDV

--

|Internet: thom.lacosta@fido261.qis.net

|Standard disclaimer: This user speaks only for him/her self.

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: KFGlynn@aol.com

Subject: [4857] Line Isolator

Message-ID: <960228103359_335600908@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Hello Gang,

Has anyone used Radio Works' line isolators for vertical antennas? I just completed a coax choke for a dipole and I feel it has helped eliminate some TVI I was experiencing. Will a choke for my R5 vertical help?

Tnx 73 Kevin KB2TEO

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: ahunter <ahunter@kcsys.com>

Subject: [4858] LM380N-8

Message-ID: <01BB05B2.457A9680@ts2p1.inland.net>

HELP !!! All I need is the LM380N-8 to complete my 49er. Mouser doesn't = stock them, Debco is out of stock and Digi-Key has minimum order. Does = anyone have 1 or 2 they would sell??? =20

Tks es 72/73

Al Hunter AA6SO

Qrp-1 #183

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [4870] More 40-9er notes
Message-ID: <199602281822.KAA13716@interval.interval.com>

Looking at the 40-9er schematic, it occurs to me that a bypass cap might be helpful from pin 8 to ground on the LM380 (or pin 7 to ground if you're using an LM386 instead). The cap can be anything from 2 to 100uF. Negative end goes to ground, naturally. The audio output isn't high enough to make the bypass cap a necessity, but you may want to try it if you think the audio is distorted on loud signals.

Also, I forgot to mention that the LM386 has one limitation: the supply voltage should be 12V or less for the standard LM386N-1. You can of course use the LM386N-4 instead, which allows for up to 22V. But voltages above 12V are not recommended for the 40-9er anyway unless you heatsink the final amp adequately.

N6KR

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "DONALD A. COLEMAN (EXT. 2850)" <DACOLEMAN@fair1.fairfield.edu>
Subject: [4842] More about noise cancellation
Message-ID: <01I1Q8Y62M6A8Y9EUW@fair1.fairfield.edu>

Never mind what I'm doing up at this hour. I don't know!

The noise cancelling circuit described in the latest message reminds me of a particularly effective passive circuit I once contrived. It consisted in nothing more than an eight-foot piece of coax cable out of the junk box, with its center conductor connected to the receiver antenna terminal along with some kind of wire antenna I was using at the time. I took the braid of the coax (same end) through an inductor and series variable cap to the receiver ground. When adjusted properly, that "circuit" would shunt any energy to ground at the operating frequency if (and only if) some of the energy was coming from the wire antenna and some from the coax cable. (to be continued.)

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: "DONALD A. COLEMAN (EXT. 2850)" <DACOLEMAN@fair1.fairfield.edu>
Subject: [4896] n. c. (contd.)
Message-ID: <01I1R6YKE7VQ8Y9QMN@fair1.fairfield.edu>

In other words: to the extent that both the wire antenna and the

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "DONALD A. COLEMAN (EXT. 2850)" <DACOLEMAN@fair1.fairfield.edu>
Subject: [4897] n. c. ckts (contd.)
Message-ID: <01I1R77JVK4G8Y9QMN@fair1.fairfield.edu>

It would appear that whatever is picked up by both the coax in this circuit and the wire antenna is simply shunted to ground through the tank circuit formed by the coax and the series inductor and variable cap. I don't think phase cancellation is involved in this circuit.

The circuit was extremely effective in cancelling local noise, but, as in the circuit described in a former message, not in cancelling noise coming from a distance.

73

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: CLATON.CADMUS@hamlink.mn.org (CLATON CADMUS)
Subject: [4864] NEW WAY TO CQ???
Message-ID: <825505673.AA05529@hamlink.mn.org>

Hello all,

Dale, KB0VCC wrote about hearing poorly sent CQ's and apparently from several different Hams. I have read the many responses to his query and have to say I was not pleased. I believe it was less than fair to refer to the offending Hams as "lids", "diseased", "QLF" etc. Might it not have been better advice to suggest a friendly QSO with the offending Ham(s) and casually inform them of what you are hearing from there station. After all, if bad code was coming from your station, wouldn't you wish to be politely told!

73 de Claton Cadmus, KA0GKC

```
-----  
| FIDOnet= Claton Cadmus 1:282/100 |  
| INTERNet= Claton.Cadmus@hamlink.mn.org |  
| PACKETnet= KA0GKC@WB0GDB.#STP.MN.USA.NA |  
-----
```

If anything I have written makes any cents, I claim copyright!
* SLMR 2.1a * veni, vidi, velcro.....I came, I saw, I stuck around!

---NoSnail v1.17

HAM>link< RBBS - Serving the Amateur Radio Community Since 1983

- 612/HAM-0000 v.34 Ham Radio Spoken Here!!
- 612/HAM-1010 v.32b Reply to sender @ hamlink.mn.org

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: [4861] North Texas QRP Club
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960228091121.2110A-100000@crl7.crl.com>

Just a reminder to all Hams in the Dallas, Ft. Worth area.

The North Texas QRP Bunch, NORTEX meets every 1st Saturday of the month
at 10 AM. The meetings are held at Chuck Adams' (K5F0) place of business
in Addison, TX.

Directions to the meeting are:

First floor of the building on the southeast corner of Arapaho and Addison
Rd. It's one block north of Beltline. Quorum Centre is the name of the
building - three stories glass and brick.

Come into the main entrance and follow the signs to the SGI Training room.

CU There,

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [4869] Palomar Tuner-Tuner Power output
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9602281310.A17469-0100000@w3eax.umd.edu>

Hooked it up to my WM-1 at someone's request:

It puts out approximately 1 milliwatt, according to the wattmeter. Unfortunately, the output is like that of a spark gap, I think, as it can be easily heard on everything from 0 to 30 MHz. Put a tuned circuit on its output and, well, you get the idea.

The output in any one freq. range is pretty small - noise is about S9 on my OMNI V.

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440
*** VHF @ <25w, HF @ <5w *** Who says Morse Code is dead? ***
Stuck at 138 cfd with dipoles - QRP-L, QRP ARCI, DXCC/WAS/WAC
72/73 de Suburban DC 301-549-1022 h / 301-982-1015 w dit dit

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: KC5GXL@pnx.com
Subject: [4839] perfect cw
Message-ID: <199602280546.AAA73519@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

To those of you who have never made a mistake sending cw, I salute you. You are also probably the same ones that think that if a ham doesn't change his call sign when he upgrades to extra, he has no business in the extra portion of the band.

Here is the stone to throw at those of us who do make mistakes.

I thought this a page to discuss qrp. I didn't think it was supposed to sound like 75 meters.

This horse has been ridden to death. Let's get on with life.

73 de kc5gx1

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Pete Meier WK8S <pmeier@sun.tir.com>
Subject: [4877] QRP Banquet tickets on sale now!
Message-ID: <3134BDA4.4AD2@tir.com>

Attention QRP'rs!! Announcing the 1996 ARCI QRP Banquet happening in just over 2 months. This annual Dayton Hamvention event will be held on Friday, May 17, 1996, 7:00 PM at the

Days Inn of Miamisburg, Ohio. An appetizing sit down dinner will be followed by a special guest speaker and awarding of lots of exciting door prizes. Advance tickets required at a 'true qrp' cost of \$13.00. Tickets are available NOW from Pete Meier WK8S. Check or Money Orders including a SASE should be made out to Pete Meier, 4181 Rural, Waterford, Michigan 48329. See you there. ***Door Prize donations needed please contact Pete Meier WK8S***
===Editors please put this in your newsletters==
--
Member of ARRL, ARCI, MI-QRP, G-QRP, NE-QRP, CQC
Pete Meier WK8S Email: pmeier@tir.com
Waterford, Michigan USA

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: CHRIS VINCENT <CVINCENT@ochsner.org>
Subject: [4850] Ramsey VHF Kits
Message-ID: <s1340692.069@ochsner.org>

Has anyone put together any of the Ramsey VHF/UHF kits? I am interested in the 220 kit but would like some feedback before I fork out the bucks.

Thanks,
Chris
KB4QGM

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: [4884] Re[2]: Surface Mount (again)
Message-ID: <9601288255.AA825547966@mail.creo.bc.ca>

Todd KB0HQU writes:

> I don't know why there are no ham SMT kits around. Maybe because
> they might cost a little more (due to higher component cost). Maybe
> because it's so darned hard to get EVERYTHING in SMT (SMT BNC's
> anyone? Or IF cans?). [I mean, what's the point if you take a small
> project and can only reduce its size by 10% or 15% because you can't
> get those huge variable capacitors and so on in SMT? I'd say screw
> it and use thru hole from the junkbox.] Maybe because kit makers see

> the fear and loathing (just kidding, folks!) on this list, and
> conclude that we hams won't BUY an SMT kit because we're scared of
> it.

Has anybody heard anything from Blue Rose Electronics lately? They used to sell, among other things, a surface mount Sudden receiver kit on a postage-stamp sized PC board. As well as all sorts of other surface mount parts.

While hams *do* seem to have a unique fear and loathing of surface mount, other electronics hobbyists seem to have few problems with it. Elektor sell a book of surface mount projects, have ads with surface-mount goodies in them, and the (English) February 1996 edition has a complete surface-mount FM radio. I want to build one!

Commercial stuff routinely uses surface mount components with the occasional leaded part here and there (Elektor's FM radio does too). So we shouldn't feel guilty about doing the same thing...

Even surplus availability seems to be picking up: I bought a bagful of surface mount boards at a flea market last Sunday (mostly junk cellular phones) for 5 dollars. They're loaded with surface mount resistors and capacitors - big, clunky 1206 size (!), for the most part - and assorted transistors, diodes and ICs.

Yet another surface mount tip: I routinely solder components by the standard technique of tinning one pad, holding the part down with a toothpick, reflowing the solder on that pad, and then soldering the other pad. But if you use a long fingernail, you have an extra finger free to hold other things, and get instant feedback (OUCH!) if you overheat the part...

Laura Halliday VE7LDH
lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
ve7ldh@amsat.org
Locator: CN89mg

"C'est une femme mutine, assez
elegante, grave et legere, ayant le
sens du confort et du plaisir
en tout." - C. Deneuve

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: scott.thomas@circellar.com
Subject: [4863] RS Meter
Message-ID: <9602281233.0HNB200@circellar.com>

I looking for comments about Radio Shack's \$130 meter that can log to a computer.

Has anyone used one of these for logging freq or voltage measurements?
How many measurements per second can it log for Voltage and Freq?

Thanks in Advance.
Scott.

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "John F. McClun" <mccclun@clark.net>
Subject: [4882] Sloppy Fist & othe matters
Message-ID: <199602282222.RAA27922@clark.net>

To Kevin, Rich Stern and the Gang -

Bravo Rich!! And Kevin, we all need help in some matters, I know I suffer from a form of short term memory disfunction. I have been a ham for two years and in that time I have had to LEARN the code three times. Why? , because I had a motorcycle accident and have trouble forming rhythms in my brain(like _._ _ or _.._). As you know this is essential for performing and copying code. I had to learn it twice at 5 wpm because I didn't do code for three months when I first became a ham and then again for the Advanced at 13 wpm. I also suffer from arthritis in the hands, Good God, you say why does he keep at it?.... I love CW. I love QRP. If you ever get one of my cards it has my logo on it - ALWAYS QRP. It may not be perfect code, it usually is copiable, but I have fun and those I talk to are having fun. Let's just enjoy the hobby, help those that need help, teach those that need teaching and enjoy QRP.

I think Rich said it very well. We don't know who is on the other end, he life state and abilities. Someday it may be you, I hope I work you then. God Bless and good day.

John N3REY
ALWAYS QRP

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "J. Skalski" <jskalski@acsu.buffalo.edu>
Subject: [4878] SMT and ceramic trimmers
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960228153756.10089A@conciliator.acsu.buffalo.edu>

Hi,
looking for somebody with a deep junkbox.
I need a dozen 25pf ceramic trimmer caps. The size needs to be about the same as a 2n3553 or an 2N3866.(around 3/8" diameter).
I'm trying to finish off some vhf projects.

My version of SMT... small squares of single sided PCB about 1/8"square are glued to a double sided PCB ground plane with Krazy glue. It works at VHF. Not always pretty but it usually works. I build in modular fashion with pcb walls with feedthroughs around each stage. When I figure out a better way to build the stage, I pop off the "pcb islands" and change the layout. No need to re-etch a board. Small mosquito hemostats from the office work great for positioning the "islands" and for holding parts while soldering.

If you have any trimmers, let me know what you want for them.

P.S. for the qrp police...the project is being driven by my 35mW qrp signal :-)

73,

Jim N2GO
The Buffalo QRP CONNECTION
ARCI #9013 QRP-L #381
jskalski@acsu.Buffalo.EDU

From qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [4872] SMT cont'd
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9602281338.A17556-01000000@w3eax.umd.edu>

I have done modifications to HT and even my HF rig, which involved the removal/destruction/installation of a few SMT items.

- 1) It is NOT for the faint of heart
- 2) It is NOT for the shaky of hand (surgeons, are you listening?)
- 3) It is NOT for those with uncorrected eyesight
- 4) It is NOT fun without a magnifier

As for physical connections, I believe I would follow the lead of manufacturers and drop a small dab of epoxy on the board, then smoosh the component into the the epoxy. THIS provides the physical strength, and is why SMT-built devices are usually considered more reliable than thru-hole-built devices.

When I recently tack soldered something, the tweezers and magnifiers were very, very helpful (even necessary). The iron needed about 100

milliseconds to do its work. Don't know how long I could keep that up...

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440
*** VHF @ <25w, HF @ <5w *** Who says Morse Code is dead? ***
Stuck at 138 cfd with dipoles - QRP-L, QRP ARCI, DXCC/WAS/WAC
72/73 de Suburban DC 301-549-1022 h / 301-982-1015 w dit dit

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: ssalgaller@CCGATE.HAC.COM
Subject: [4893] SMT Parts and Kits
Message-ID: <9601288255.AA825552987@CCGATE.HAC.COM>

Electronic Goldmine has pages and pages of new SMT parts at surplus prices. They even have SMT XTALs and oscillators.

They also have several SMT kits where you can practice SMT PWB assembly. They have a lot of regular PWB kit items too.

They also have the usual (leaded) transistors, caps, LED's.

Finally, they have some "odd" items, such as a Maverick missile rate gyro - new for only \$8.95 !!!

Sorry, the warhead is sold separately !

They are at: (602) 451-7454 (voice)
(602) 451-9495 (fax)
PO Box 5408, Scottsdale, AZ 85261 (snail mail)

U.D.A.

Stephen S.
WA3ZGT
ssalgaller@ccgate.hac.com

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "rohre" <rohre@arlut.utexas.edu>
Subject: [4871] Ten Tec manuals better than Heath
Message-ID: <n1386612266.96993@msmailgw1.arlut.utexas.edu>

Heath was all we had to hold up as a standard, in the fifties.

But, I believe the growth of small kit vendors today with outstanding documentation like Small Wonders Labs, and others, like the club offerings, has reached a new peak when we look at the Ten Tec manuals.

The 6M transverter kit I bought had excellent components, a heavy steel case, and wonder of all was the spiral bound manual, that will lay flat on the bench during assembly and use, (printed in multicolors), with vast explanation of everything you would ever need to know about the theory and operations and assembly of the kit. All was a half inch or more in thickness, thicker than most Heath manuals I ever saw. The printing was very high quality, and really shows what modern word processors will do.

That is a big point to me, to have very legible instructions, like Dave Benson uses.

Thanks Dave, it is hard enough to see to assemble things in middle age, without having to wonder what the instruction sheet says. Dave uses excellent boxes, and high quality components, easy to identify by his parts lists.

I have seen others use just a xerox or faint offset printed sketchy instruction sheet, with no cautions about soldering, or suggested tools, like so many kits today, from a larger commercial source.

Fit and finish are very important, and I privately expressed to a list member who asked, my unhappy experience with one commercial vendor of QRP and other kits, that does not have the holes in the plastic box cases lining up with the mounted connectors on the board! This same vendor, used one type of (non RF) connector for RF on the xmtr. kit, and a better true RF connector on the one board receiver! Go Figure! Don't go for lowest price, there are many moderate priced good kits discussed on this list every week. I am glad there is a vendor who offers a variety of ham and other kits, but it is sad they do not improve the quality of the individual designs and fit and finish. Hopefully, the new offerings from Ten Tec will get the attention of the other vendors, as to the standard of quality hams should expect.

When smaller operations like Small Wonders Labs and Wilderness Radio can offer high quality with good prices, and good variety and prices can be had from firms like Oak Hills, then the kits that advertise all the time in the commercial ham magazines will hopefully take notice, and spend some time on making better products.

I know advertising is costly, but it would be nice to see the lesser known kits we know as top quality here on this list held up as good ones by QST or other ham magazines, to improve the understanding of the larger ham community.

72, Stuart K5KVH

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: svein@eci1.ucsb.edu (Svein Vetti)
Subject: [4895] Toko part, "quad coil" RMC-2A6597HM
Message-ID: <9602290154.AA02645@orchid.ucsb.edu>

Hi, I've got a Toko part from Digi-key. It is a "quad coil" (whatever that means) part no. RMC-6597HM used for many of the Motorola "all in one chip" receivers (demodulation). I only need to connect 2 of the leads to the board, but there are 5 to choose from.

Does anybody know which one, or how to obtain info about this part.

-Svein, CA

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: KFGlynn@aol.com
Subject: [4856] U-Shaped 40M Dipole
Message-ID: <960228103357_335600878@mail06.mail.aol.com>

Hello gang,

I setup my u-shaped 40M dipole last Sunday and I'm happy so far. The 2:1 bandwidth is approx 167 KHz and is a bit low - so when the weather warms up again soon I'll trim to get closer to CW portion of 40M. It's abt 3:1 in the CW portion and I'm using tuner at the moment.

One thing - the lowest SWR with imp. 50 ohms is 1.6:1. This antenna is a compromise in the sense that there is plenty of metallic objects in the near field on the roof. But I'll take it and will use my tuner to get to 1:1 if need be.

I went with a coax choke vs. a balun. I wound 20' of RF-58 into 8 turns at the feedpoint. Didn't think a balun would be of benefit in this case and was very happy that Doug DeMaw, W1FB concurred with this. I believe my signal is getting out better than with my multi-wire shortened dipole (which has inductors to increase length on 40M). I also do not see ANY TVI thus far - which is great. Time will tell.

73 Kevin KB2TE0

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: kellner@usa.acsys.com (Richard G. Kellner)
Subject: [4841] [4830] Re: Surface Mount (again)
Message-ID: <9602280553.AA03843@usa.acsys.com>

> From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfld.com>

> To: acito@asdg.UNET.dec.com

> Cc: qrp-1@lehigh.edu

> Subject: [4830] Re: Surface Mount (again)

>

> Hi Bill,

>

> I was one of the folks who raised the "challenge" of a club sponsored SMC

> kit a number of months ago. After much looking into it I have come to the

> conclusion that an Surface Mount Component project is out of the realm of

> kit building for the "average" kit builder. My take on this is that the

> tools needed to do an SMC project preclude even an experienced kit builder.

> OK I have thrown the gauntlet out there - anyone want to prove me wrong - hi.

>

This is one of those things you have to just fearlessly jump into and you'll find the water's not so cold. I'm 52 and with my normal contact lenses I can barely see the smaller SMC parts on a board. My special tool set for SMC work is a pair of OptiVISORs, my XYL's eyebrow tweezers (she hasn't figured out where they went), and my 25 watt Ungar Imperial iron with a 1/32" chisel tip. I haven't burned up a part yet and my finished projects look very pretty.

By the way, anyone know where to get tips for the discontinued Imperial irons?

Add to the list of vendors Communications Specialists in Orange, CA at 800-854-0547. They have a CR-1 chip resistor kit which includes all 5% values from 10 ohms to 10 megohms for \$49.95. Also a CC-1 capacitor kit which includes every 10% value from 1pf to .33uf for \$49.95. I haven't found a cheaper way to get into this with such a good assortment of parts.

73, Rich W5RXP

a

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: prvalko <prvalko@Oakland.edu>

Subject: [4851] Re: FS: TenTec Century/22

Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.960228091740.2030C-1000000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>

On Tue, 27 Feb 1996, Curt Krelic wrote:

> Hello All,

> I have what I consider to be a Mint, TenTec Century/22 for sale.

> It comes with the matching power supply, built in keyer and calibrator,
> it recently came back from TenTec for go over. Runs 0 to 20 watts output,
> 6-bands including 30Mtrs. Price Shipped lower 48 \$300
> If interested call 412-693-9890 OR EMAIL.

Ohhhhhh! If any of you were even slightly interested I'd hop on this. The C-22 was the last of Ten Tec's direct conversion transceivers and they REALLY got it right. Quite RARE to see one for sale, even.

With zero to up to 30W out, it (arguably) may not be "true" qrp, but still is is a joy to use and pretty, too.

73 =paul= wb8zjl
collector of Ten Tecs and other fine plastics

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: QLF%mimi@magic.itg.ti.com
Subject: [4854] re: HEATH COMPANY
Message-ID: <9602281515.AA05780@itg.ti.com>

From: Brad Bradfield QLF

Subj: re: HEATH COMPANY

Heath had a long and interesting history. I remember reading an article on the history of the Heath Company many years ago in some magazine and was surprised to find out that their first kit (after WW-II??) was a home built airplane! How many of you knew that?

I love building, both scratch built and kits, and have built many of both.

My first kit, at age 12, was a KnightKit Space Spanner that my dad helped me build. That's where I first learned the joys of the smell of burning rosin and stripping wire with my teeth! This kit was followed by a DX-60, HG-10, Knight RF generator and tube tester (still gott'em), RCA VTVM, HW16, HW-202, Heath Handi-talkie, and others I'm sure I've forgotten.

Looking forward to building the 49er and getting it on the air.

73's

Brad, WB0CGH

Brad Bradfield, PE
108 Forestwood
Corinth, TX 76205

Electrical Design Engineer
Texas Instruments, Inc.

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(H) 817-321-2960
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WB0CGH@W05H.#DFW.TX.USA.NA

ARRL Life Member QRP-L #377 SMIRK #4906 IEEE(M)

Collector of wireless and landline Morse keys and accessories.

From qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Pat Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>
Subject: [4848] Re: Heath demise
Message-ID: <199602281319.IAA86522@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

>I've had lots of mail, currently running at 19 to 1 in favour of better
>>manuals/documentation with current kits.

I don't think you have anything significant there. If you ask people if anything should be better from kit documentation to coffee the answer will be yes. A 100% markup on small-volume radios for maximum-quality documentation isn't unrealistic. Ask how many people will pay 100% markup on the kit for a better manual. If they had a choice between an Explorer II with the current adequate-but-terse manual for \$100 or an Explorer II w/Heath-style manual for \$200, which would they choose? What about a radio that normally sells for \$200? Would they pay \$400 for a better manual?

>>>==>PStJTT

=====

Patrick Taber
Principal Software Engineer
Logiccraft Information Services
22 Cotton Road
Nashua N.H. 03063

Email: ptaber@logiccraft.com
Phone: (603) 880-0300
Fax: (603) 880-7229
Also known as: KC1TD

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Grover Tolliver <gtkq4al@qnet.com>
Subject: [4855] Re: Heath demise
Message-ID: <1.5.4b11.16.19960228102415.1baf9c40@pop3.qnet.com>

Pat:

From what bag did you grab the 100% mark-up? If the builder can't remember the parts required, steps used - in the order accomplished -, increments of testing and the final alignment procedures - to include minimal test gear required-, and then present it all in a clear, concise document he does not have a product worthy of dissemination.

Good documentation begins with, and is an integral part in, the evolutionary design and development path of any well thought-out and finished product. When done in this fashion the time spent on documentation will probably represent about 10% of the total project man hours. Slick art work and publishing embellishment may add greatly to the cost, but, in QRP hobby groups this should not be a factor.

Poor, and more costly documentation, for both the originator and the buyer, is usually the result of after-the-fact efforts or haste.

At 08:20 AM 2/28/96 EST, you wrote:

>>I've had lots of mail, currently running at 19 to 1 in favour of better
>>manuals/documentation with current kits.

>

>I don't think you have anything significant there. If you ask people if
>anything should be better from kit documentation to coffee the answer will
>be yes. A 100% markup on small-volume radios for maximum-quality
>documentation isn't unrealistic. Ask how many people will pay 100% markup on
>the kit for a better manual. If they had a choice between an Explorer II
>with the current adequate-but-terse manual for \$100 or an Explorer II
>w/Heath-style manual for \$200, which would they choose? What about a radio
>that normally sells for \$200? Would they pay \$400 for a better manual?

>

>

>>>>==>PStJTT

>

>=====

```
>Patrick Taber                                Email: ptaber@logiccraft.com  
>Principal Software Engineer                 Phone: (603) 880-0300  
>Logicraft Information Services              Fax:   (603) 880-7229  
>22 Cotton Road  
>Nashua N.H. 03063                          Also known as: KC1TD  
>  
>  
>
```

72 y Paz Grover/Doris

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfl.com>
Subject: [4887] Re: Heath demise
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960227232453.00763500@public.compuser.com>

I just had to jump in here when you made reference to the OHR Explorer II. Of all rigs to pick as an example - I was just about to send a comment out that Oak Hills Research is probably the closest kit company to the ole Heath style. So I beg to differ with you.

1. Introduction that gives some description of what the rig is about and what it will end up being (nothing like setting a goal - hi) and a little about how to build it (soldering, assembly notes, etc)
2. Assembly notes - enough detail to make sure all parts and any hints about how to install parts are included (hints on reading small print on mono caps, wire length trimming chart etc).
3. Final assembly info (switching gears by putting the soldering iron down

and bringing out the wrenches and screwdrivers for chassis assembly).

4. Alignment procedure - with possibly a couple different methods depending on your availability of test equipment.

5. Operation info - learning how to enjoy the fruits of your labour.

6. Detailed Parts List with description and even how to read markings for the colour blind red-red-red (OK the answer quick...).

7. Detailed schematic that cross references the part number AND value.

8. Component Overlay (to show you where parts go on the already component-screened board

9. Bottom Foil pattern for checking the print against your actual board - nice for troubleshooting soldering bridges (which we NEVER do).

10 Assembly Pictorial (just like the ole Heathkits - and yes probably done by an ex-Heath employee).

11. Additional assembly pictorials on how to prepare mini-coax, how to install Integrated circuits etc.

12. Parts Pictorial - so you can double check what a transistor board spacer looks like.

13. Resistor/Cap Chart and how to read values

14. Warranty Page

15 Troubleshooting page and troubleshooting voltage schematics.

A BIG list - Was this list from an old Heathkit? No THIS IS the documentation (except for item 15) that is provided with the (yes you guessed it) Oak Hills Research Explorer II - far from "current adequate-but-terse manual" as you describe.

Anyway all I wanted to say is that a GOOD manual, to me, is more than just step-by-step instructions (am I repeating myself..) I have to agree with Bob Kellogg - I would get a little insulted by the far to simplistic nature of the heath manual (cut one lead on R-23 2200 ohm (red-red-red) (in parts bag 3, sub bag 4) to 2.33 inches and the other lead to 3.2 inches and do not connect (NC) one end and do not connect (NC) the other end to anything - this will be a "flying" soldering contact) - OK, OK I am getting a little sarcastic here..)

Compuserve: 70466.1405@compuserve.com

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Richard E Robinson <rerobins@uncc.edu>
Subject: [4852] re: Heath demise bad for QRP??
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960228085457.29347B-100000@unccsun>

On Tue, 27 Feb 1996, Allen Jones wrote:

>
> Heath, as I understand it, is still around but has left the kit business for
> the most part and specializes in educational products. They didn't fail in
> the classic sense. Heath/Zenith was bought by Groupe Bull of France who
> wanted only the computer end of the business and had no interest in the
> production of kit products.

Not only did Zenith/Bull put an end to HeathKit products, they moved their TV/Monitor manufacturing operation from Missouri to Matamoros, Mexico, putting many folks out of work here. The TV show "60 Minutes" did a piece on the effect on that town in Missouri by the relocation of the Zenith plant and the horrible living conditions in Matamoros and low wages paid at the Zenith plant in Mexico.

The Missouri plant was a union plant and Zenith could hire Mexican labor for a few dollars a day. Having had to repair Zenith computer products at work, I can attest to the quick drop in Zenith quality when this occurred. We quit buying ZDS products due to the proprietary hardware designs of Groupe Bull/ZDS and the difficulty in obtaining replacement parts of decent quality particularly for monitors.

Heath Kits did not get "passed by" technologically, they were destroyed by predators in the corporate jungle. The accountants at Groupe Bull decided to drop lines that were not bringing in a certain profit level. The kit line was the first to go. The HW-9 was a great rig at the time, and still is. To argue that Heath contributed to the life or death of small QRP equipment manufacturers is giving Heath much more credit than they are due. I would suggest that the increase in the number of small QRP gear manufacturers is more indicative of a national trend in "do-it-yourselfness". The most popular show on PBS is "This Old House". Here in NC, Auto Zones are popping up like spring onions. Look at the rise of Home Depot, Lowes and other large hardware supply chains. Doesn't this say something about folks enjoying creating/repairing things

on their own? I pat myself on the back every time I change the oil in our cars.

TenTec even states in their T-Kit catalog that they are trying to fill a gap left by the demise of HeathKits. But the wide range of products offered by these new companies indicates something far more universal than just filling a void left by Heath.

Oh well. More than my tuppence worth.

72/73,

Rick kf4ar builder and owner of many Heath Kits and not ashamed to say I miss them.

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Jim Lowman <jlowman@iepsnet.com>
Subject: [4881] re: Heath demise bad for QRP??
Message-ID: <199602282153.QAA100575@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

At 09:42 AM 2/27/96 EST, you wrote:

>>One thing to keep in mind.....was all the cost of producing
>>such great manuals part of the reason HeatKit failed?

>Heath, as I understand it, is still around but has left the kit business for
>the most part and specializes in educational products. They didn't fail in
>the classic sense. Heath/Zenith was bought by Groupe Bull of France who
>wanted only the computer end of the business and had no interest in the
>production of kit products. There is at least two books being sold about
>the Heath Company which would probably give some insight as to what really
>happened. BTW, it now looks as though the computer business might be
>purchased by Packard Bell.

Another factor could be the corporate mentality today. Kitbuilders,
particularly
hams, represent a very small market. Everything is driven by the bottom line
now.

Just a thought,

72/73 de Jim - KF6CR
San Bernardino, CA

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: jeffa@ix.netcom.com (Jeff Anderson)
Subject: [4853] Re: Heath's Demise
Message-ID: <199602281444.GAA04045@ix3.ix.netcom.com>

I regret, very much, the passing of Heath.

As a kid growing up in the sixties, Heath was a great entrance into the world of electronics. My first kit was their VTVM, quickly followed by the GR-64 shortwave receiver. Today I'm an engineer, and it's surprising how many of my "older" engineer friends also built Heathkits as kids.

Heath had amazing market presence. Their product line spanned the range from audio through radio to television, with a number of "interesting" branches (fishfinders(!), for instance). Because of this, their ads could be found in *all* of the hobbyist magazines of the time, from Pop'tronics to QST. No matter what your interest in electronics, Heath had a kit for you, and usually at a great price.

What a resource for kids like myself. I remember thumbing through the catalog and calculating how long it would take me to earn enough money with my paper-route to buy, say, an HW-101 (never bought it, though).

Today's kit companies, as great as some of their kits may be, are too specialized to achieve any comparable market presence, and thus they are invisible to someone with a latent, still to be defined, interest in electronics.

None of these companies compare, not even remotely, to Heath. And this is what I regret.

- Jeff, WA6AHL

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: [4883] Re: Heath's Demise
Message-ID: <9601288255.AA825546461@mail.creo.bc.ca>

I remember something of Heath's heyday and decline, though I never built one myself...

With modern circuits and parts, kit instructions are little more than: "Stuff the board. Test. Align. Use." This is the level of instructions

of most of the kits I've built (Kanga, DEM, etc.), and it works fine for me. What more do you need? Really? The Heathkit manuals I've seen went into inordinate mechanical detail - necessary with the mechanical complexity of rigs of that era. They never did say much about how the things worked.

Now that we've eliminated most of the mechanical complexity, we've eliminated most of the need for detailed assembly instructions. This does not relieve kit makers of their duty to make sure their creations work, and that they use suitable parts. Nor does it relieve designers from the responsibility of explaining how their creations work.

The really hard (or just plain time-consuming) part these days is gathering together the parts, especially special and/or exotic ones. This is where kit makers really shine, like when N8ET buys Toko 10RB inductors by the dozen, selects 1% matched sets, and puts them in his brilliant R2 kits. This is enormous added value, 1990s style!

I can't help but wonder how much of the Good Old Days (TM) comes into this discussion. This is an obsession I most emphatically do **not** share, and, yes, it is partly related to my gender - my life would have been profoundly different had I been born in 1931, instead of 1961. And not for the better, either...

Laura Halliday VE7LDH
lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
ve7ldh@amsat.org
Locator: CN89mg

"C'est une femme mutine, assez
elegante, grave et legere, ayant le
sens du confort et du plaisir
en tout." - C. Deneuve

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "Mark S. Adams" <MSADAMS@ACSU.BUFFALO.EDU>
Subject: HW-9 Fixed, es Vertical Antennas

Hi Gang,

I finally got around to digging into the mint Heathkit HW-9 I purchased off this net last month. It was only putting out about 2W and I was having trouble making QSO's. I did not think these two things were related as I make plenty of Q's with my NE 30-40 at 2W. Turns out there were two problems.

Someone here suggested that the low power problem may be simply a blown final. As I recall, AC4HF, Jeff had low output and fixed his with new finals. So I did the "key the rig into a dummy load for 2 minutes" test and sure enough one final was cold. But boy the other one sure was HOT! So I bought two ECG-341's as no one in Buffalo could get me Motorola transistors. When I

went to put them in I confirmed Paul Harden's suspicion that these transistors are backwards, ie. CBE, not EBC. The Heath manual shows them as CBE as does the Motorola and ECG literature. But when you unsolder the old ones the circuit board reads EBC! Not good for your confidence. Well I installed the new 341's and problem one was solved. I now have better than 4 watts out on all bands.

Problem 2. During the Colorburst 2 weeks ago I worked one of the Buffalo QRP Connection about 15 miles away. When I got the QSL card from him he noted that I was about 3 KHz off! I took the rig to my very competent ham neighbors house and his Optoelectronics Scout proved this to be true. I aligned the BFO and all is well.

Further, I went through the entire alignment procedure and the rig is working great. It's a keeper, unless of course I sell it to buy a new QRP Plus...

VERTICAL ANTENNAS

I have been trying to decide whether to a GAP Titan or Challenger, or a Butternut HF2V or 6 or 9 and also need to make a final decision on where to mount the antenna. On a mast a few feet above the peak of my 25' roof or out on my lawn 130' behind the house. Many of you wrote to me and had great suggestions. Here is the overview of the comments.

- * Put whichever antenna you pick up high and away from power lines, cable, etc.
- * The 32' varieties will perform better on 40M than the shorter ones but are not as convenient, ie not as many bands.
- * The geographic location might dictate which antenna works best. There is no clear winner because of this factor.
- * The overall favorite is the GAP Titan. Convenient to use and good signals on all bands.
- * No one liked my plan to use 130' plus of 1/2" 75 ohm hardline to feed a vertical on the "back 40". Seems I would need a pair of UNUN's on each end of the hardline but maybe these cause more loss than they are worth.

A call to GAP yielded an interesting conversation. They say you MUST use 50 ohm line and they stuck to their company line about there being no increase in performance from elevating the antenna, any of them. The guy at GAP said his choice would be to ground mount either a Titan or Challenger. He would not put in the effort of assembling a mast to get the elevation. I told him about the experience of this group and he contended that improved performance is not possible unless there are detuning objects nearby. These could include fences, a house with foil backed insulation or steel siding, etc.

So there you have it. I sit here, credit card in hand and cannot decide which vertical to buy! Or where to mount it.

PS- there is a lot of good antenna info on the DX reflector. Just subscribe by email to:

dx-request@ve7tcp.ampr.org

In the body of the mail type:

subscribe

That is all you need. Unfortunately, they have as many messages as we do but there is no digest yet.

72 to all de Mark, N2VPK

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: GREGOIRE@ENDOR.COM (ERNEST GREGOIRE)
Subject: [4892] Re: In a shoebox....
Message-ID: <199602290018.TAA50654@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

>
>Well, after much consideration I'm ready to take the QRP plunge. The
>only problem I anticipate is....what I'm going to use for an antenna.
>
>I currently live in a 3rd floor pseduo-efficiency with NO balcony and no
>roof access. There aren't even any rain gutters to tune up. Since money
>is an object, toys like an Isoloop is out of the question.
>
>but I don't have room to put up a dipole and I
>haven't heard a lot of good things about random wires. Since I'm only
>going to run on 40 m, a monobander would be fine.
>

>Thanks,
>
>Brent Alexenko
>KG0WE

Hello Brent, Get yourself a nice Zero aluminum suit case, an airline carry on bag, and fill it with dipoles,coax,ladder line, sling shots, string, battery, solar panels and other such goodies. Your gonna be a trav-lin-ham,

ole man!

I have a similar set up and take a folding card table too. It sounds like a bother and it is really, but it's better than no hammin at all. With some planning, maybe a friend that will let you set up on his land, and you may be able put out some permanent, occasionally used antennas.

Good luck, let us know how you make out.

de AA1IK N.E.-QRP-C. # 202 (Lead by example, It is better to)
 QRP-L member #95. (pull a string than it is to push it.)
Ernie Gregoire
RR 1 Box 221
Canaan, NH. 03741

New England QRP Club, information
available on request by sending me a
S.A.S.E. or via E-mail.

e-mail : GREGOIRE@ENDOR.COM
packet : AA1IK@WA1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [4845] Re: Litz Wire
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960228063934.2809A-1000000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

I may have missed it, but so far, I have not seen mention of the upper frequency limit for the effectiveness of Litz wire--somewhere below 1 MHz, if my memory serves. Whatever the actual cut-off--the point where Litz provides no advantage over regular stranded or solid wire--it is clearly useful for LF and VLF work, marginal for MF, and not especially useful for HF and up. Someone with more precise data might fill this in to ensure reasonable accuracy--not guaranteed in this hurried note.

-73-
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: prvalko <prvalko@Oakland.edu>
Subject: [4873] Re: NEW WAY TO CQ???
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.960228141047.22246A-100000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>

On Wed, 28 Feb 1996, CLATON CADMUS wrote:

> have been better advice to suggest a friendly QSO with the offending
> Ham(s) and casually inform them of what you are hearing from there
> station.

Now I've gotta jump in... I first reported this weird method of calling
CQ a couple months ago. It was not quite met with such a huge response
from the QRP-L!

I'd said that I'd heard a 9-land station calling -.-. -.-. repeatedly
and was curious if anyone else knew what that was about.

Claton suggests a friendly QSO with the OP to politely correct them but
I was really interested in how that conversation would sound!

Let's make an assumption the -.-. is the character "+" I don't know if
it IS an international morse character, after all.

ME : say om ur sending the letter + when I think you mean to send a q
OP : sri ob missed that character after you said send a
ME : that is the letter q you know the letter after p
OP : I think you said the letter after p which is +
ME : no the letter after p is q
OP : sri om hvy +rm es +rn 73 es bcnu

That would be a heck of a +SO!

73! =paul= wb8zjl

From qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfld.com>
Subject: [4889] Re: NEW WAY TO CQ???
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960227232503.00c4bdc4@public.compusult.nf.ca>

Paul,

Just to let you know I'm still sitting here laughing - this qrp-l group is
great for an evening of entertainment - I don't even listen to the news on
TV anymore.

73/72 Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

At 14:31 2/28/96 EST, you wrote:

>Let's make an assumption the .-.- is the character "+" I don't know if
>it IS an international morse character, after all.

>

>ME : say om ur sending the letter + when I think you mean to send a q

>OP : sri ob missed that character after you said send a

>ME : that is the letter q you know the letter after p

>OP : I think you said the letter after p which is +

>ME : no the letter after p is q

>OP : sri om hvy +rm es +rn 73 es bcnu

>

>That would be a heck of a +S0!

>

>73! =paul= wb8zjl

Bob Gobrick - V01DRB/WA6ERB/VE2DRB - Newfoundland, Canada
QRPer Galore - ARCI, GQRP, NORCAL, NEQRP, COQRP, MIQRP, NWQRP
Internet: rgobrick@nfld.com
bgobrick@nlnet.nf.ca
Compuserve: 70466.1405@compuserve.com

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfld.com>

Subject: [4886] Re: North Texas QRP Club

Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960227232459.00c3d1b4@public.compuserve.nf.ca>

Smitty,

Say isn't Chuck somewhere out in the midwest looking at picking up some
SMALL computers for his Company?? That guy Chuck is starting to think QRO

73/72 Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

PS: This is an "insider" for folks reading the computer trade news - I just
sprinkled with a few QRP type phrases.

At 12:35 2/28/96 EST, you wrote:

>Just a reminder to all Hams in the Dallas, Ft. Worth area.

>

>The North Texas QRP Bunch, NORTEX meets every 1st Saturday of the month
>at 10 AM. The meetings are held at Chuck Adams' (K5F0) place of business
>in Addison, TX.

Come into the main entrance and follow the signs to the SGI Training room.

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-----
| Bob Gobrick - V01DRB/WA6ERB/VE2DRB - Newfoundland, Canada |
| QRPPer Galore - ARCI, GQRP, NORCAL, NEQRP, COQRP, MIQRP, NWQRP |
| Internet:      rgobrick@nfld.com |
|                bgobrick@nl.net.nf.ca |
| Compuserve:   70466.1405@compuserve.com |
|-----
```

From qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Dick G0BPS <Dick@kanga.demon.co.uk>
Subject: [4844] Re: Novice bands
Message-ID: <P+mRjBAM0sMxEwf0@kanga.demon.co.uk>

In message <199602261304.HAA13164@cdale1.midwest.net>, Dan Reynolds
<bcdlr@midwest.net> writes
>This may be a dumb question, but do any other countries' bands overlap the
>US novice bands, (other than CA)? If so what bands/freqs? TNX
>Peace+
>Dan Reynolds, bcdlr@slip.net, KB9JL0
>
>
I might be able to answer if I knew what the US novice bands were?

TTFN de Dick (QRP-L 206)

Dick Pascoe G0BPS / G0R00 KANGA PRODUCTS
The UK's Leading supplier of QRP kits.
Email to: Dick@kanga.demon.co.uk

Home page: <http://ukinternet.com/ham/kanga>

All comments made here are permitted
and condoned by the boss
I AM THE BOSS!

From qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Robert Williams <rwill@seminole.saccw.cc.ar.us>

Subject: [4840] Re: QRP-L digest 284

Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.960227234208.334A-1000000@seminole.saccw.cc.ar.us>

If there is anyone getting ready to place a Mouser order.... Please let me know. I need to buy two coaxial power plugs that they carry. I would be willing to send a check and a SASE to cover their cost. Please E-Mail if you can help me out and include my two items in your order.

TNX

Robert S. Williams - KD4ZPH

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: larsennc@alaska.net (Nancy-KL7NY/Jim-AL7FS/Juliann-WL7MP)

Subject: [4837] Re: QSL cards for QRP WAS

Message-ID: <v01510101ad598d83f13e@[204.17.139.86]>

Dennis and Bob ++,

All you have to do is work me? :-)

Propagation has not been good from up here. I suspect most don't realized high latitudes have a different pattern of propagation than down in the Lower 48.

IT STINKS!

73,

Jim Larsen

AL7FS

Anchorage, Alaska

>trying to figure out how to work KH6 or KL7 - hi. We ALL have that
>problem - what it takes is patience and a lot of listening during these
>times of low sunspots.

>73/72 Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

>

>At 15:51 2/27/96 EST, you wrote:

>, I would like to work WAS QRP... Any ideas on how to get KH6 and KL7 on

>20 or 40?

>>Thanks, 72 Dennis K3ETS

Nancy C Larsen

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfld.com>

Subject: [4888] Re: QSL cards for QRP WAS

Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960227232452.0076ef5c@public.compuserve.nf.ca>

OK Jim,

A good challenge - you and I will point our 3 element 40 meter beams NORTH (from Alaska and Newfoundland) and make the first transpolar QRP QSO - we'll defy that lousy high latitude propagation - hi.

73/72 Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

At 23:46 2/27/96 EST, you wrote:

>Dennis and Bob ++,

>

>All you have to do is work me? :-)

>

>Propagation has not been good from up here. I suspect most don't realized

>high latitudes have a different pattern of propagation than down in the

>Lower 48.

>

>IT STINKS!

>

>73,

>

>Jim Larsen

>AL7FS

>Anchorage, Alaska

```
-----
| Bob Gobrick - V01DRB/WA6ERB/VE2DRB - Newfoundland, Canada |
| QRP'er Galore - ARCI, GQRP, NORCAL, NEQRP, COQRP, MIQRP, NWQRP |
| Internet:      rgobrick@nfld.com |
|                bgobrick@nlnet.nf.ca |
| Compuserve:   70466.1405@compuserve.com |
|-----
```

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Todd Nichols <nichols@rtp.ericsson.se>
Subject: [4867] Re: Surface Mount (again)
Message-ID: <199602281811.NAA27133@rtpworkmanager.rtp.ericsson.se>

> Date: Tue, 27 Feb 1996 02:57:23 +0000
> From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfld.com>
> Subject: [4830] Re: Surface Mount (again)
>
> Hi Bill,
>
> I was one of the folks who raised the "challenge" of a club sponsored SMC
> kit a number of months ago. After much looking into it I have come to the
> conclusion that an Surface Mount Component project is out of the realm of
> kit building for the "average" kit builder. My take on this is that the
> tools needed to do an SMC project preclude even an experienced kit builder.
> OK I have thrown the gauntlet out there - anyone want to prove me wrong - hi.
>
> OK for some background - I'm wonder if the QRP-NE transmitter you saw wasn't
> done by Paul Krantz W1CFI of the club. paul did a nice SMC 80 meter
> transceiver writeup in the Jan 94 QRP Quarterly. Nothing against Paul but I
> believe he was able to use some of the tools (SMC soldering station etc)
> from his job. I was drooling when I read his article but I was not going to
> invest in any SMC tools.
>
[snip]
> us) could build them. So Bill we will wait for you to disprove my theory
> that we can't build those type kits. I'd like to see you buy one and build
> it up and prove that it CAN BE DONE - why heck WE ARE part of the Elite
> QRP-L Club...
>
> Good luck 73/72 Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

Bob,

When I do SMT prototyping on the bench, both at home and at work, I don't use ANY special SMT tools - just normal tools in perhaps unconventional ways. Disclaimer: I don't do multi-100 lead, fine-pitch, quad flat pack packages. I do chip caps and resistors down to 0603 without magnification, 20 pin SO chips, and I HAVE done 44 pin PQFPs and J-lead packages. I use a normal Weller temp-controlled iron. Boards at work tend to have tin plate and solder mask; boards at home tend not. They help. The only thing I use for SMT that I don't normally use for thru-hole is a pair of tweezers. I can use them for grabbing, picking up, placing, pressing, and pulling. I find that for these types of parts, a regular iron tip is usually preferable to a fine tip (fine meaning very sharp) for reasons discussed here already (more thermal inertia for the larger tip, so you can get your joint finished

quicker and have less chance of damaging a part). A week or so ago someone (sorry I forgot the name) posted their technique of pretinning one pad per part, then going around and pressing on the part while reflowing that joint, then soldering the rest of the leads. That is what I do, and it is quick and efficient. And I only use braid for desoldering.

My assessment is that it's mostly in the technique, not the tools (unless, like I said, you're doing really fine pitch stuff - for that you probably want an ICE [in-circuit emulator] or some other expensive stuff anyway). No special or expensive tools, just slightly different ways of using stuff we all use anyway. Just a little practice is required.

Hmm...maybe one problem we have is adjusting to the idea that solder is now making both the electrical AND mechanical connection (remember being told over and over again that you needed a good mechanical connection before you even got solder near the joint?), and thinking that something extra is required.

One more disclaimer (I've got lots :-): IF you are working in a factory on a production line, then I would have those special, expensive tools on hand. But we're not (most of us - except for the kit sellers on this list :-) - we're making one or two or three of something. And by golly, in my opinion, if someone can hack out a PCB (or even if they can't :-), then they can lay an iron next to a chip component and get a little solder in there and make a good joint. And that's all there is to it.

I don't know why there are no ham SMT kits around. Maybe because they might cost a little more (due to higher component cost). Maybe because it's so darned hard to get EVERYTHING in SMT (SMT BNC's anyone? Or IF cans?). [I mean, what's the point if you take a small project and can only reduce its size by 10% or 15% because you can't get those huge variable capacitors and so on in SMT? I'd say screw it and use thru hole from the junkbox.] Maybe because kit makers see the fear and loathing (just kidding, folks!) on this list, and conclude that we hams won't BUY an SMT kit because we're scared of it.

More thoughts?

Todd

Todd Nichols KB0HQW Ericsson Inc. (919) 685-2597
nichols@rtp.ericsson.se Research Triangle Park, NC
"Ensign, set a new course. There's coffee in that nebula!" - Capt. Janeway

From qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996

From: "Bill Kelsey - N8ET - Kanga US" <kanga@brutus.bright.net>
Subject: [4890] Re: Surface Mount (again)
Message-ID: <199602282324.SAA14654@brutus.bright.net>

To Bob and the QRP-L list -

The most recent kit (KK7B's LM2 board) to come out of Kanga US has some surface mount parts involved. I built one up, and have found that I did not need anything special for the construction. My standard iron worked well - the boards are tinned and solder masked - I flowed a very small amount of solder on one pad, pinned the part down with something small (like a tooth pick, or my small needle nose pliers) and then reheated the part and solder with the iron (flat chisel tip). When one end of the part was tacked down, I could easily flow a bit of solder on the other end. Then I would usually go back to the first end and re-flow the solder to relieve any stress that might have built up in the part.

As someone else mentioned - the big problem with most of the SM parts is that there are no markings - drop 'em and you're dead... I ship 'em by snipping them off the reel and scotch taping them to a sheet with values printed on it. So far no one has complained.

My eyes are at the point where I now can (read that when I have to) use reading glasses. I could do the work without the glasses, but found it much easier with them on!

73

73 - Bill Kelsey - N8ET
Kanga US
kanga@bright.net
419-423-4604
<http://qrp.cc.nd.edu/kanga/>

From qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Feb 28 22:31:39 1996
From: Johnson_Dan@AAC.COM
Subject: [4875] Re: Ten Tec manuals better than Heath
Message-ID: <9602282303.22763.aa@SMROUTER.AAC.COM>

> ...unhappy experience with one commercial vendor of QRP and other kits... I
> am glad there is a vendor who offers a variety of ham and other kits, but it
> is sad they do not improve the quality of the individual designs and fit and
> finish.

Everyone who does not know this is Ramsey please unsubscribe. Ahh, no takers.

I'm shocked.

There is room for a purveyor of excessively inexpensive kits. You can benefit from having one, and if you end up mangling or torching it, throw it away without angst. To Ramsey's credit, they sell enclosures separately from kits, so you can avoid them simply by avoiding them.

Which leads to the point that I'd like to make. You will not be arrested if you tear one of those scary tags off a pillow, neither will you be arrested if you judiciously substitute components in a kit. Build the thing with their parts if you like, get it working, decide whether you like it, then identify the critical trashlets and replace them.

For example, a cheap, imitation rheostat (how do they get plastic to conduct, anyway?) mounted on a PCB solely by its cheap, imitation leads can be replaced with a real, chassis-mounted one attached by wires. The soldered-in crystal in a QRP transmitter can be ripped out and a real crystal holder (or reasonable facsimile) installed in its place. Stick it in a Bud (or Ten-Tec :-) box, pretend you forget what's inside, and enjoy. It won't be a Norcal, etc., but it will convert electric power to something else.

You get what you pay for, so get what you can afford and learn from it, enjoy it, mess with it, and then go onto the next leg of your journey. Just understand that, usually, lower prices purchase higher risk. (Reread the phrase above, "decide whether you like it".) You're likely to benefit more over time from thoughtfully designed kits than thoughtfully discounted ones.

<grin> and 72 de KC4EWT
Johnson_Dan@aac.com